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SUBJECT Sevareid's Commentary

WALTER CRONKITE: For the last year the nation's intelligence organizations, with the CIA in the forefront, have been taking their lumps for past activities. In his commentary, Eric Sevareid suggests that the pendulum may now be swinging too far.

ERIC SEVAREID: The Senate approaches a confirmation vote on Mr. George Bush as new CIA Director, and the House Intelligence Committee formally recommends changes in the structure, supervision and accountability of the official intelligence services. It also calls for penalties for government employees, including congressmen, who leak secret information. This report naturally was leaked.

The Senate's doubt about Mr. Bush's suitability springs from his career in party politics. He is a man of sophistication and probity, he should have no more trouble than the next man in separating duty from politics.

A more real question is his toughness. The CIA requires a man with a touch of the ruthless, to keep the CIA activities within the bounds of common sense, but also to stand against the current crop of zealots, including some congressmen and their assistants who do not seem to care how badly this weapon for security is weakened in a rough world.

New supervisory monitoring machinery can be tried but it will not solve the dilemma of a democracy struggling short of war, but worldwide, with a totalitarian regime. The need for frequent secrecy versus the need of Congress and the public to know what is being done in the country's name. Solution is impossible, a better balance is not. But that will depend not on the machinery but on the character of the persons who operate the

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